

## Message Text

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53

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-05 SAM-01 OMB-01 SAJ-01 IO-10 EB-07

TRSE-00 /089 W

----- 093382

R 291300Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8381

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 5728

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN, KS

SUBJECT: VISIT OF SOUTH KOREAN FOREIGN MINISTER TO INDIA

SUMMARY: SOUTH KOREAN FOREIGN MINISTER KIM VISITED DELHI APRIL 20-23, THEREBY GETTING IN BEFORE THE NORTH KOREAN FOREIGN MINISTER, WHO ARRIVES MAY 15. KIM TOLD THE GOI OF SOUTH KOREAN CONCERNS ABOUT POSSIBLE NORTH KOREA ADVENTURISM FOLLOWING THE EVENTS IN INDO-CHINA. THE GOI REMAINED NONCOMMITTAL ON THIS AND OTHER ISSUES INVOLVING THE TWO KOREAS. TRADE CONTINUES TO BE A BRIGHT SPOT IN INDO-KOREAN RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING HIS THREE-DAY VISIT TO DELHI, ROK FOREIGN MINISTER DON-JO KIM CALLED ON MRS. GANDHI, ON DEFENSE MINISTER SWARAN SINGH AND ON COMMERCE MINISTER CHATTOPADHYAYA AS WELL AS MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER CHAVAN. ACCORDING TO THE ROK EMBASSY HERE, SOUTH KOREA PROPOSED THE VISIT, APPARENTLY BECAUSE OF THE SCHEDULED VISIT BY THE NORTH KOREAN FOREIGN MINISTER MAY 15.

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2. COMMUNIQUE: THE COMMUNIQUE IS ANODYNE. ACCORDING TO THE

SOUTH KOREAN EMBASSY, INDIAN USED THE IMPENDING NORTH KOREAN VISIT AS A PRETEXT FOR DECLINING TO EXPRESS UNDERSTANDING OR APPRECIATION FOR THE KOREAN VIEWS ON THE SITUATION ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA.

3. PRIVATE TALKS: THE KOREANS FAILED TO GET ANY INDIAN REACTION ON ISSUES INVOLVING THE TWO KOREAS. INDIA WAS NON-COMMITTAL ON WHETHER IT WOULD OR WOULDNOT SUPPORT NORTH KOREAN MEMBERSHIP IN THE NON-ALIGNED GROUP, OR IF IT DID WHETHER IT WOULD ALSO SUPPORT SOUTH KOREA. (AN INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL HAS TOLD US, HOWEVER, THAT THE STATIONING OF UN TROOPS IN SOUTH KOREAN MAKES IT INELIGIBLE FOR MEMBERSHIP ACCORDING TO THE STANDARDS ADOPTED BY THE NON-ALIGNED GROUP.) INDIAN ONLY AGREED TO THINK ABOUT A KOREAN SUGGESTION THAT IT MIGHT PLAY A MEDIATORY ROLE IN THE UN DISCUSSION OF THE KOREAN ISSUE. IN RESPONSE TO KOREAN COMMENTS ABOUT POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE KOREAS OF THE EVENTS WERE INEVITABLE. IT EXPRESSED NO CONCERN ABOUT US STRATEGIC WITHDRAWAL.

4. PUBLIC RELATIONS: REPEATING WHAT HE HAD BEEN SAYING IN PRIVATE, IM TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE APRIL 22 THAT SOUTH KOREA HOPED THAT NORTH WOULD NOT BE ENCOURAGED BY EVENTS IN CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM TO UNDERTAKE A FUTILE TRIAL OF STRENGTH. HE EXPLAINED THE KOREAN POSITION ON REUNIFICATION, ON STATIONING OF US TROOPS AND ON POSSIBLE NON-ALIGNED STATUS FOR THE TWO KOREAS. HE REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD ASSURED SOUTH KOREA THAT IT WOULD HELP IN CASE OF ATTACK, BUT HE ADDED UNDER QUESTIONING THAT THE SECURITY OF A COUNTRY WOULD ULTIMATELY DEPEND ON ITS OWN STRENGTH. THE NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR CALLED A PRESS CONFERENCE WITHIN HOURS OF KIM'S DEPARTURE TO CHARGE THAT SOUTH KOREA WAS RAISING THE BOGEY OF A THREAT FROM THE NORTH TO JUSTIFY THE STATIONING OF US TROOPS IN THE SOUTH.

5. TRADE: BOTH SIDES CONTINUE TO TALK OPTIMISTICALLY ABOUT TRADE PROSPECTS. INDIAN IS RUNNING A TRADE FAIR IN SEOUL APRIL 25-MAY 6 TO PROMOTE INDIA'S IMAGE AS A TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED COUNTRY. KIM TOLD NEWSMEN THAT KOREAN IMPORTS FROM INDIAN THIS YEAR WOULD TOTAL \$43 MILLION AGAINST \$21 MILLION LAST YEAR. THE INDIANS OFFERED TO JOIN WITH KOREA IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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JOINT VENTURES IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

6. COMMENT: AGGRESSIVE SOUTH KOREAN DIPLOMACY AND TRADE EFFORTS HERE HAVE IN THE PAST RESULTED IN AN INDIAN NEUTRALITY ON KOREAN QUESTIONS WHICH HAS TACITLY FAVORED THE POSITION OF THE SOUTH. ADMITTANCE OF THE NORTH INTO THE NON-ALIGNED GROUP MIGHT MAKE IT HARDER FOR DELHI TO MAINTAIN THIS POLICY. SAXBE

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MINISTERIAL VISITS  
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**Draft Date:** 29 APR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Subject:** VISIT OF SOUTH KOREAN FOREIGN MINISTER TO INDIA SUMMARY: SOUTH KOREAN FOREIGN MINISTER KIM VISITED DELHI  
**TAGS:** PFOR, IN, KS, KN, (KIM TONG-CHO)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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